

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 008496
ORIGIN OES-02

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 L-01 NEA-07 COME-00 TRSE-00
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DRAFTED BY OES/APT/BMP:ASCHAPMAN:MFC
APPROVED BY OES/APT/BMP:ASCHAPMAN
OES:PTMINK (DRAFT)
OES/APT:OHGANLEY (DRAFT)
L/OES:MMCLEOD
NEA/IAI:MANDERSON
DESIRED DISTRIBUTION
COM, TREAS

-----129861 121804Z /43
P 121650Z JAN 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY

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LIMDIS

E.O. 11652:

TAGS: TECH, IS

SUBJECT: BIRD MANAGEMENT

REFS: (A) STATE 311062; (B) STATE 310946; AND
(C) TEL AVIV 0062

1. MEETING HELD JANUARY 6 ON MATTERS OF TH: ISRAEL- U.S.
BINATIONAL INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION
(BIRD) INCLUDED ASSISTANT SECRETARIES MINK (STATE), BARUCH
(COMMERCE) AND BERGSTEN (TREASURY) AND FEW STAFF MEMBERS.

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2. AFTER THOROUGH DISCUSSION, DECISION WAS REACHED TO
RECOMMEND TO BIRD BOARD OF GOVERNORS THAT A RENEWED EFFORT
BE MADE TO DEVELOP AN AGREED PRIVATE CONTRACT FOR THE HIRE
OF MR. A. WADE BLACKMAN AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR. HIRE OF
BLACKMAN AS A U.S. GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEE WAS ELIMINATED AS A
POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVE. INTENT IS TO WRITE A GOOD, ADEQUATE
STANDARD CONTRACT FOR THE TYPE OF PERSON NEEDED, TAKING INTO

ACCOUNT ADVICE FROM COMPENSATION AND TAX EXPERTS AND THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF LIFE AS A PRIVATE U.S. CITIZEN IN TEL AVIV. AFTER APPROVAL BY ISRAELI BOARD MEMBERS, PRESUMABLY BEFORE THE FEBRUARY 20-21 BOARD MEETING, THIS CONTRACT WOULD BE PRESENTED TO BLACKMAN ON A TAKE-IT-OR-LEAVE-IT BASIS.

3. IN CASE BLACKMAN DOES NOT ACCEPT THE CONTRACT OFFERED, IT WAS SUGGESTED THAT 2-3 LIKELY CANDIDATES BE ALREADY IDENTIFIED WITHOUT ACTUALLY APPROACHING THEM. ALSO, IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO DETAIL A U.S. GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEE WITH APPROPRIATE BACKGROUND AND EXPERIENCE TO HANDLE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR JOB ON AN INTERIM BASIS UNTIL A PERMANENT PERSON COULD BE BROUGHT ABOARD UNDER A CONTRACT.

4. THE PROPOSED BOARD RESOLUTION CONCERNING RATIFICATION OF INTERIM ACTIONS ALREADY TAKEN BY SCIATT MILLS AND AUTHORIZING FURTHER URGENT ACTIONS WAS BRIEFLY DISCUSSED. BARUCH VOICED OPINION THAT IT WOULD BE MORE APPROPRIATE TO AUTHORIZE BLACKMAN TO HIRE EMPLOYEES SINCE HE IS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DESIGNATE. MODIFIED VERSION OF RESOLUTION WILL BE TRANSMITTED LATER BY SEPTTEL.

5. PROPOSED RESOLUTION GRANTING BLACKMAN COMPENSATION AND SOME BENEFITS WHILE HE REMAINS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DESIGNATE WAS ALSO DISCUSSED AND WILL BE TRANSMITTED BY SEPTTEL FOR DISTRIBUTION TO ISRAELI BOARD MEMBERS AFTER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FURTHER MODIFICATION.

6. CONCERNING REGULARIZATION OF PROCEDURES FOR SUBMITTING, APPROVING AND RECORDING BOARD RESOLUTIONS, IT WAS DECIDED TO SUBMIT RESOLUTIONS TO THE STAFF WORKING GROUP FOR DISCUSSION AND AGREEMENT (OR NOT) PRIOR TO SUBMISSION TO AMERICAN BOARD MEMBERS FOR DECISION. SCIATT SHOULD, AS OPPORTUNITY PRESENTS ITSELF, CASUALLY INFORM ISRAELI BOARD MEMBERS OF THIS PROCEDURE TO BE FOLLOWED FOR THE AMERICAN SIDE.

7. FINALLY, ALL PRESENT WERE URGED TO USE STATE DEPARTMENT CHANNELS FOR COMMUNICATING WITH THE BIRD SECRETARIAT AND ISRAELI BOARD MEMBERS SO THAT EMBASSY TEL AVIV WOULD BE KEPT FULLY INFORMED OF DEVELOPMENTS. CHRISTOPHER

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